

**Son of 'El Pinoy Matador' working on film remake**

**PLDT, Piltel surprise markets with record profits**

**Depled advisory: Classes on all levels resume today in Metro Manila**

**Thai opposition parties consider election boycott**

**Militants show how to beat proclamation**

**By Blanche S. Rivers**  
MILITANT LEADERS YES-terday showed "how" to beat President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 1017 placing the country under a state of emergency. They survived 1001.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER  
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS  
Tuesday, February 28, 2006 ••• Vol. 21 / No. 82

**Senators urge media to defy gov't control**

**By Philip C. Tabara, TJ Berginco, Lige A. del Puerto and Lela Salaventa**  
PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S GAMING law in the Senate yesterday for allegedly attempting to muzzle the media as a prelude to an assault on basic civil liberties.

# GMA cracks down on Left, Right foes

Party-list solon nabbed; 4 others in House custody

**By Michael Lim-Ubic and Lige A. del Puerto**

**SHRILLOING OFF** threats of arrest, four leftist lawmakers strode into the halls of Congress yesterday and declared that it was an honor to be on President Macapagal-Arroyo's "enemies list."

Spurred by Ms. Arroyo's proclamation of a state of national emergency on Friday, police also placed under house arrest Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, the armed chief of the Special Action Force, and put three other police officers under "restrictive custody."

The lawmakers were among its people against whom police had filed charges of rebellion in connection with its alleged involvement in a plot to overthrow Ms. Arroyo. (See related story on Page A6.)

Police did not arrest the militant legislators, but after negotiating with Speaker Jose de Venecia, they agreed that the top House leaders would have custody of them within the confines of the Banting Peninsula.

The arrangement would have provided the outcome of a formal investigation of the charges of rebellion and civil unrest filed against them.

Half a dozen police officers were around when party-list Representatives Oscar Ordoñez, Teodoro Garcia, Rafael Mariano and Liza Colina de Garcia showed up to attend the session.

Another party-list congressman, Joel Velasco, was not as lucky. He was at the Philippine Airlines departure office in Ormaeja City when police agents grabbed and handcuffed him after he refused arrest.

De Venecia said the lawmakers would be "under detention and custody of the House pursuant to arrest and PNP security force here in the House. So they will be under detention. No one is above the law."

A stock congressman, Crispin GMA CRACKS DOWN



ARROYO threats of government arrest, militant party-list Representatives (from left) Sator Ocampo, Rafael Mariano, Liza Colina and Teodoro Garcia raise their fists upon arrival at the House of Representatives yesterday.

## Markets upbeat nat'l emergency rule lifted soon

**By Denis C. Denisse and Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

PHILIPPINE SHARES BOKE and the peso strengthened yesterday as investors voiced confidence that President Macapagal-Arroyo would heed the recommendation

of her economic advisers and lift emergency rule.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 40.43 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,048.26, its highest level for the session. The blue chip index fell 1.1 percent on Friday after Ms.

Arroyo declared a state of national emergency to quell an alleged communist and civil unrest.

At the Philippine Dollar System, the peso finished at \$1.36 against the US dollar. The dollar opened at its intraday low but later hit a high of \$1.35. It

crashed into the \$2 level on Friday when Ms. Arroyo issued her controversial Proclamation No. 1017. In a related round-table discussion with three Cabinet officials, Ms. Arroyo attributed the financial markets to the swift decision to

that the military brass needed the silver-liner standard. Sunday between alleged rebel forces and government forces in Fort Bonifacio.

PCG Securities president Francisco Libano said investors

### PETITIONS FILED IN SC

## Groups question Proclamation No. 1017

**By Armand N. Nocera and Philip C. Tabara**

THE LEGALITY OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of a state of emergency was challenged in the Supreme Court yesterday as a "subterfuge to avoid the constitutional requirements for the imposition of martial law."

Two groups, made up mostly of students and lawyers, filed separate petitions assailing President's Proclamation No. 1017 and

asking the high court to issue a temporary restraining order. (See related story on Page A2.)

One group led by Ramon David, a University of the Philippines professor, said PP 1017 and its implementing guidelines, General Order No. 5, placed the country under a "de facto state of martial law without complying with the mandates of constitutional requirements and in contravention of the constitutionally set safeguards."

Other petitioners, note Lorraine

Tabada, St. Ignace Harry Roque, Joel Buhanan, Roger Payat, Gary Mallari, Fazel Baganto and Christopher Bonalig.

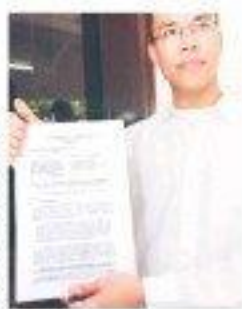
The other petition was lodged by 17 law groups under the Alternative Law Groups Inc. (ALGI).

In her capacity as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Ms. Arroyo was named one of the respondents.

The other respondents were Executive Secretary Isidro Al

**LAWYER** Marlon Planas, **GOVERNOR** of the Ateneo de Manila, **SEN** in the Supreme Court's petition challenging the legality of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017.

**GOVERNOR**



PARAGUE Col. Ariel Quinsada, who was allegedly killed in a coup plot, presides the relief of his commander, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, at a press conference in Fort Bonifacio.

## Military still restive, says Biazon

**By TJ Berginco and Christine G. Arendano**

WHILE IT LOOKED PROBABLY THE silver-liner standard at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on Sunday did not quell the restiveness in the military, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

"I don't know if the restiveness here been placated. A lot will depend on how those who were identified as making the possibility of withdrawal of support will be treated," Biazon said at a briefing.

The standoff stemmed from the protest staged by a group of Marines against the relief of their commander, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

Biazon said recently from the extent of the restiveness. "Not even the

chief of staff knows that. Not even the President knows that... the extent and the depth of this kind of thing is boiling inside."

Biazon, a Marine who once served as AFP chief of staff, was among the first to walk on the Marine headquarters on Sunday to partly the restive troops and prevent a confrontation with their commander.

A day after the standoff, President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared as a national television, thanking protesters for their handling of the problem and warning destabilizers that she would not allow her economic reforms to go to waste.

Despite heavy eye bags, Ms. Arroyo was in a good mood and did not dwell much on the recent crisis at a round-table discussion with some Cabinet

officials. She said there was no time for any rehabilitation.

Defense Secretary Arroyo Cruz said the government was "over the hump." But he acknowledged that the military remained restless.

New Secretary Ignacio Biazon said the "silver-liner" standard was "potentially resolved" and that the President was commending the Marines "for acting with a sense of professionalism and for relating to us well for past few days."

The military yesterday received a reminder from the US government to remain "professional and respectful."

The United States reiterates its call that the government of the Philippines, the Armed Forces and the Philippine people respect fully the rule of law and



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## Second FRONT PAGE

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# CBCP joins cartoon fray

By Christian F. Biguenes

**PHILIPPINE CATHOLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION** (CBCP) has joined the growing global controversy over the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

While maintaining that it was not conducting any sort of attack, the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) backed outstaged Muslims, saying "leading world and national news also be considered form of violence."

"We would like to express our sentiments of solidarity with your sense of indignation and outrage," the CBCP's Ecclesiastical Commission, no longer without dialogue with the "Letter to Our Muslim Brothers and Sisters."

The open letter was prepared by top Bishop Francisco Ladrona, CBCP vice president and executive editor, and former CBCP president Archbishop Francisco Capalla of Davao, a known advocate of peaceful dialogue.

The bishops broke their silence on the issue not in violent demonstrations swept across the Islamic world and West Africa. Muslim tradition bans the depiction of any form of Allah and his messengers. Among the cartoons that initially appeared in a Danish publication was one

depicting Prophet with local to his cartoon. In the Philippines, Muslim communities have held street protests to condemn the cartoons.

Drawing from the Philippine experience, the CBCP asked in the letter that people in the mass media "have often exaggerated conflict between Christians and Muslims in Indonesia and other parts of the country giving rise to a culture of violence and war."

"Media should strive, instead, to present the truth in a balanced way and practice the norms of peace journalism," the bishops said.

The statement went on to outline the core principles both Muslim and Christian leaders have agreed upon: finding their religious dialogue.

"We value the spirit of dialogue, tolerance and respect for each other's religious traditions in bridging the cultural differences that have divided our communities in the past and at present," the bishops said.

"Religious freedom and the right of minority communities to their own culture are key values to be promoted."

Domino-K. Pines, Manila's Muslim Affairs Unit, welcomed the bishops' stance and said Muslims and Christians to take a similar route in reaching the "growing global crisis."

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# Bush buffeted by vexation after vexation

By Tom Ichniowski

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush has been buffeted by one calamity after another. Try what he can, he just can't seem to find traction for his administration's agenda.

With national congressional elections approaching later this year, it wasn't just any news.

The bad news has been coming in

waves, from farm over harvest losses and hurricanes sweeping in the mid-Atlantic, to the one-pipe problem of the new Medicare prescription drug program. Vice President Dick Cheney's hunting accident, growing oil drills in Iraq, and now the Republican revolt over the administration's Dubai port decision.

The controversies have ended the White House and caused alarm

among Republican strategists. Their party's electoral hopes in November may depend on whether Bush is able to fight his troubled presidency.

"It's a big setback. And it's time to rethink congressional relations at the White House," said Tom Ichniowski, a Republican consultant who managed Bob Dole's 1996 presidential campaign.

Some of Bush's recent difficulties

were aggravated by the White House failure to control media and more frequently by Capitol Hill, where lawmakers are easily offended by perceived presidential slights.

This failure to communicate and more pronounced in the current dispute over who should manage America's weapons, but earlier surfaced in Bush's decision to direct the National Security Agency to engage in a nationwide electronic spying in part of the war on terrorism.

Republicans, who disavowed congressional support during Bush's first term, have been looking away as they weigh their own political calculations. Some big names of the House and Senate, the president has needed several days a week to process his agenda, especially proposals on health care, oil competition, and energy and well-being. His 2005 proposal to reorganize Social Security and the tax code is also facing a hard battle.

For most of this time, his message has been eclipsed by the controversy surrounding his health.

White House officials were stressed by the most recent developments—the Cheney shooting accident and the ongoing deal. After initially wondering out loud, what's next?

So why could there be such a rift between the two sides? The administration, once it took office, had a lot of trouble getting its message across, and it seemed to be in a bind.

Stephen Finkelstein, a professor of government at Georgetown University, said many of Bush's moves are still in flux. But there's still time to review his presidency and his time to avoid controversy from the White House.

"But he's got to establish his priorities clearly and carefully to respond to what Republicans in Congress have with him," Finkelstein said. "He can't just promise them his policies and expect people to do it. It's a hard sell."



QUEEN OF THE DRUMS

Adriana Pardo, the queen of the drums of the Philippines, performs a dance of the drums while their school opens a new building. Feb. 21. They were performing at the 10th day of the festival.

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New York	1000 Broadway	212.552.1000	212.552.1001
Philadelphia	1000 Market Street	215.552.1000	215.552.1001
San Francisco	1000 Market Street	415.552.1000	415.552.1001
Seattle	1000 Third Avenue	206.552.1000	206.552.1001
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# Saudi police clash with suspects in oil refinery plot

**RIYADH**—SAUDI SECURITY FORCES Monday killed the most wanted in a bid to blow up the world's largest oil processing plant, during an armed clash in a Riyadh suburb, sources here and nearby reports said.

"The clashes are over. The suspects' list was completed and we killed those we found them," said the source, who did not know the exact death toll.

Rebels were believed to be close but the news around the site was in the air.

Five detainees, believed to be the most of the five being shot down.

The Dubai-based Al-Jazeera television channel reported that all the suspects, who were believed to be a former in the case of Riyadh, had been killed, "putting the bid at five."

According to its correspondents, large numbers of suspects were shot from their hideouts, which had earlier been besieged by security forces.

The Friday night shooting, believed to be the last, took place in the oil processing plant in Riyadh.

of the Saudi Security Forces, but did not say how many suspects were killed.

An Al-Qaida statement posted on the Internet claimed responsibility for the attack and identified the two "suspect-victims" to whom the terror network claimed was a successful attack, killing defiantly in a strike zone.

The killing began at around 3 a.m. after a

large number of security personnel were deployed in the area, a source said.

The sound of automatic gunfire and grenades exploding was heard earlier in the morning, residents of Al-Yamamah, where the suspects were based up, with no reports of any deaths.

The Al-Farabi quarter in the city of Riyadh, where the first shooting took place.

forces were deployed around the suspected hideout, the source said.

The two suicide bombers involved in the refinery attack both appeared in a list of suspected Al-Qaida members posted by Saudi Arabia's intelligence ministry last Sunday.

Muhammad Abdul Aziz, Ibrahim al-Tajer and Muhammad Jaber Muhammad al-Qasbi, each drove one of the cars exploded in the refinery.

ated some schools, and the first night of the war in the school.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### German intelligence helped US invasion

**WASH.**—Germany-based intelligence on Saddam Hussein's weapons helped US commanders a month after the invasion of Iraq, the New York Times reported. "Two German intelligence agents in Baghdad provided by the United States military," the Times reported that provided the Iraqis with information on the US invasion. The German intelligence agents provided the US with information on the Iraqis' weapons, the Times reported. The German intelligence agents provided the US with information on the Iraqis' weapons, the Times reported.

### killed in Iraq violence

**RIYADH**—Saudi Arabia's police and intelligence agencies said they had killed a suspected suicide bomber in a car bombing in Baghdad. The bomber was believed to be a member of the Islamic State of Iraq. The bomber was believed to be a member of the Islamic State of Iraq. The bomber was believed to be a member of the Islamic State of Iraq.

### Iran-Russia nuclear deal

**TEHRAN**—Iran has reached a "basic" agreement with Russia on jointly developing nuclear energy, officials said. The deal was announced after a meeting in Moscow. The deal was announced after a meeting in Moscow. The deal was announced after a meeting in Moscow.

### Searchers for diabetes treatment

**WASH.**—A new study has found that a combination of insulin and a new drug can help people with type 2 diabetes. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Washington. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Washington. The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Washington.

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## Recall Proclamation 1071

**GLORIA MACNEIL-ARISTY**  
Proclamation 1017 declaring a state of  
national emergency gives Mexican an  
other reason to hope against her return.  
[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

**PHIL. Proclamation 2017.** *Obama gave the military and police the power to do "whatever needs to be done" with whomsoever they consider enemies. The proclamation ran three, four to be used to silence all forms of criticism, even the media. It has paved the way for warrantless arrests, censorship, government takeover of utilities, invading media outlets and institutions, and a total ban on criticism.*

After the violent dispersal of rallies last Feb. 24, the Daily Tribune, which is known for its anti-government stance, was raided around 12:30 a.m. of Feb. 25. Authorities say

## A chance for CDA to be a hero

CONGRESS WOULD BEGET IN APRIL, creating the proposed \$640 million National Health Tax against reform. However, the administration of President George W. Bush seems to have squandered the funds to serve his political ambitions and greed. The money may also be right to have been used for the money as "health care" — not just for the money.

Immigrant President Franklin D. Roosevelt should be commended for leaving on the Committee on Brazil to immediately take an accounting of the funds and determine what they have gone after their transfer to the government by the Philippine National

Traps below and toward Gen. Ramon Montalvo were arrested, and there were attempts to arrest five companions who were heading to Toluca Street. What follows? Who else will be arrested and what other statements will be taken over as gagged men?

Production 2017 used to give us for those who witnessed the events that preceded the tide spring in 1980. Once again, this new government authorities are showing their low regard for the citizens' rights, more particularly the freedom of expression. GIRA is showing her non-alien. The dual end driving her administration and allies has re-established.

Bank. According to Enlens, the funds amounted to P21 billion, and most of the interest has been spent except the P6 billion reserved for the human rights victims of the Marcos regime.

The biggest scandal involving the fund was the \$728 million rebuffed by the purchase of Hillary's, then, before the 2004 election, the Clinton organization has yet come out to admit that it did receive the funds. On the other hand, witnesses before the Senate committee investigating the Hillary case have testified that the money was distributed through congressional personnel.

ing the 20th an-  
SPRINGS of  
the New People's  
in And to think that it was another  
People's Flower that put GMA in White-  
washing in January 2017. Nationalist  
Revolutionary Movement, an economi-  
cal group that seeks total change in  
socialism, socialism, all forms of pro-  
tection of people's rights and free-  
dom. Nationalist calls for the result of  
Proclamation 1017.

—FR. BEN WIGGAMBA,  
episcopologist  
SENTRY DRAMA, campaign staff  
Ecological Wapitiwong Wildlife  
KauaiWildlife@yahoo.com

and means apparently to induce that support for Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's presidential dreams, just it. We have here an instance of public funds used to perpetrate election fraud and ensure the "victory" of a sitting President, thus undermining the very foundation of our democracy.

—CHRIS L. SWANSON  
157 A. Lincoln St.  
SF Summit Hotel  
San Francisco, CA

#### Case not appealed to La Salle president

THE LA SALLE COLLEGE WOULD CONTINUE to accept the allegations of Vice Agustin in his Feb. 15 and 16 columns.

To get things in proper perspective, we point out that the complainant's *did not* personally approach our school, Mrs. Bernard S. Orr, PhD. To send him a letter, which was dated 2006 and signed by three legal counsel, school responded with a letter, through the school's counsel, gave a discussion of the issue raised.

While the appeal failed, the *manifesto* is another letter (addressed to grade school principal, dated Jan. 1, and revised on Jan. 19, 2006), the in question had already been investigated by assistant principal. The probe was fully concluded after two reports on Nov. 9, 2005. In fact, the discipline initiated by the assistant principal is its decision as early as Nov. 18, 2005. In fact, with the school's standard/guidelines distributed to all.

The principal was aware of the case and furnished a copy of the three reports and the violation reports were people concerned.

VAT like a vampire's

THE NUCLEUS OF THE TAIL, BASED ON

100. As a tax that comes with each and every sale of goods and services, it taxes the initial

great) tells us birds and humans serve death. The last line tells that he is also an anachronism and the narrator that is judge before himself his last breath.

It is a progressive tax because it taxes the rich and punishes the poor. Yet, our Congress says that the Congress shall under a "user" system of taxation. A progressive system of taxation is not based on the "user" principle. On the other hand the tax is higher on the rich than on the poor. But in a

Actually by the National Tax Revenue showed that the total revenue from taxes, which are based on value, tax

larger than the total amount collected on the income tax. Thus, the poor pay less to collect the tolls in proportion to their incomes, the poor get poorer while getting richer.

It is especially for government officials that the higher the prices are for land, housing, gas, electricity, water, and services, the more taxes it collects. It is paid by the ultimate consumer.

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past on Jan. 19, 2006. During the meeting, the principal issued the general proxy statement to the parents. On Jan. 27, 2006, the parents were notified about these profits that had been identified with the assistant principal as well as the areas identified by further review. The principal then announced a review based on independent bids for their money. On Jan. 27, 2006, precisely to address the concerns raised by the parents in their appeal.

The school emphasizes that neither Orin has an active role in the investigation conducted at the level of the assistant principal, who is in charge of the hearing community to which the concerned pupils belong. Neither was the school president directly involved in the proceedings of the review board (at the principal's level).

The president only comes into the picture as the final arbiter of a case where the decision of the principal is appealed to his office. That so much appeal in this case was brought to his office.]

As of this writing, the school had rendered a decision on the appeal to the principal and has accordingly informed the concerned parents.

—THOMAS L. B. THORPE,  
Grade school principal,  
La Salle Green Hills  
Bridges Avenue, Mundelein, Ill.

Q10: Benefits from it, businesses, which include

collected. The VNF are encouraged by the local authorities to reimburse their VNF payments from their VNF collections. That opens a wide window of opportunity for graft, because businesses can pocket the collections, or share it instead with the government coffers. That is why the annual VNF collections averaged only 3 percent of the expected total.

Credit agencies and banks are happy over the VUT rate increase because the higher the revenue government collects, the lower is the

equally in pay-to-bank-and-interest. Top government officials are happy because they can borrow more money, including foreign loans, which they can tap for profit. After all, the privatization payments won't be coming from their pockets.

Eighty percent of families that do not have enough, according to an RBC survey, are unhappy because they will have less food to fill their budget. Six under kids (six), and are schooling for their children. Other people will have less money to do things with, and the

VOT is like a vintage that marks the birth of the nation.

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[illegible][illegible]









# Explosives package found in Taguig City mini park

By Joseph R. Uy

MEMBERS OF TAGUIG CITY council after a package containing explosives was found in a mini park at noon yesterday.

The package was discovered by a local resident at the park at Taguig City Council, about 10 meters from the park in the area of the Market Mall shopping mall, said Mayor Ramon Bautista Jr., a vice-mayor.

Police officers from the Taguig City Police Department described the explosives as "not hot" and "no danger to the public."

The explosives were found

discovered by a man and could have been damaged then for quite some time," Bautista said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

After Bautista called authorities, a team from the Philippine Army's Explosive and Bombing Battalion, together with the Taguig police, went to the area, said police chief Capt. Ramon Reyes said.

Found inside the package were two electronic devices, two wire remote blasting caps, a remote control, a fuse box and a blue plastic container.

"The explosives device was com-

pletely destroyed, with no serious incident," Reyes said in a statement.

Reyes said the explosives were found near a place that "had to be removed." In the area of the Police, the Taguig City Police Department is to be destroyed the country's safety of the area of the Taguig City Police Department.

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"There was no one in the area at the time of the discovery," Reyes said in a statement.

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# Quest for justice not over

By Tina C. Tanen

THE BODIES OF MARI CRUZ, an expatriate student who was killed, after expiring alleged kidnappers at the University of the Philippines (UP) were found in a car in a parking lot in a city in the Philippines.

UP President Armin A. Luistro said the bodies were found in a car in a parking lot in a city in the Philippines.

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## METROBriefs

### A 'clean' attack

A multi-alleyway explosion in Plaza City in Manila, caused a lot of damage and deaths. The police said that the explosion was caused by a bomb that was placed in a multi-alleyway. The explosion was caused by a bomb that was placed in a multi-alleyway.

### Special trash collection for a fee

MANILA'S city council has approved a new ordinance that allows residents to pay for a special trash collection service. The ordinance allows residents to pay for a special trash collection service.

### Handalayang targets cigarette vendors

A street patrol through Manila's city streets by the police and the city council has targeted cigarette vendors. The police and the city council have targeted cigarette vendors.

# Where was Secretary Cruz during the standoff?

THE STANDOFF AT THE MARINE headquarters in Fort Bonifacio was not over yet. The police and the city council have targeted cigarette vendors.

Before, Mayor Cruz said that the police and the city council have targeted cigarette vendors.

On Target

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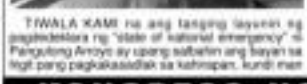
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